

come. Although I know she will continue to serve the community of Stillman College, I sincerely hope that her retirement is filled with the joy of spending time with family and friends.

On a personal note, it has been an honor getting to know Dr. Warrick and to be her partner on the federal level in securing more funding and better opportunities in furtherance of the mission of Stillman College. Dr. Warrick has been a tireless advocate, fierce negotiator, and passionate champion for the students, faculty, and alumni of Stillman College. She has utilized her professional experience and extensive knowledge, leveraging her impressive network to steer this historic institution through perilous times and set it on a more solid financial footing extending its future viability. We wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her phenomenal leadership of Stillman College.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary leadership and service of Dr. Cynthia Warrick and her contributions as President of Stillman College.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
EUGENE BURTON GIFFORD, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Eugene Burton, Jr. Gene was born on July 9, 1934, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Claudia Johnnie Gifford and Eugene Burton Gifford, Sr. At age five, his family relocated to Booneville, and he spent his childhood as a bright student at Thrasher School where he played basketball, served as treasurer of his senior class and received state and national awards in forestry for 4-H and FFA.

After graduating Thrasher High School in 1954, Gene attended Northeast Mississippi Junior College where he had the distinct honor of being elected Student Body President his freshman and sophomore years. Gene continued his education at The University of Mississippi where he received a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and a lifelong love for the Ole Miss Rebels.

A dedicated student, Gene dual-enrolled in Ole Miss Law School during his senior year. He served as an associate editor of the Mississippi Law Journal before graduating law school in 1960. He met the love of his life, Betty Potts, on a blind date at the Catfish Hotel. The couple was married on December 23, 1960, and began their lives together in Booneville.

An advocate for education, Gene served as the Director in the Mississippi School Board Association and a member of the State Ethics Commission. He also dedicated many years of his life giving back to Thrasher High School, and in 2007, received the Super Rebel Award for over half a century of contributions to the school.

A devout Christian, Gene was a member of Gaston Baptist church for 70 years, where he served as Chairman of the Finance Committee for 26 years and moderator for 36 years. He also served on the Building Committee during the construction of the Baptist Student Union at Northeast Mississippi Community College.

Those closest to Gene appreciate his quiet strength, integrity, intellect, enormous heart, sense of humor, avid storytelling, dedication to his work and sincere love for his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Harold Eugene Gifford and Dr. William "Bill" Burton Gifford and sister, Carole Gifford Spencer.

Gene is survived by his wife of 62 years, Betty Potts Gifford; his children Sharon Gifford Cheek (Jeff) of Booneville, Tracey Gifford Smith (Tim) of Corinth, and Ginger Gifford Kizer (Brandon) of Oxford. He was the loving grandfather of Lauren Cheek Watts (Jordan), Megan Grace Carpenter, Gracie Cheek Pratt (Brooks), Savannah Grace Smith, Annalyn Faith Carpenter, Houston Gifford Cheek, Victoria Smith Fox (Tucker), Olivia Hope Carpenter, Nyles Gifford Smith, Lillian Faye Kizer and great-grandfather of Vivian Grace Pratt.

HONORING SARATOGA TOWN
SUPERVISOR THOMAS N. WOOD III

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor lifelong Saratoga resident and

Town Supervisor, Thomas "Tom" Wood. Tom has dedicated his life to making Saratoga an exceptional community, and I am proud to thank him for his service.

Tom was raised in Saratoga and attended Schuylerville Central School. He went on to attend Cornell University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Education in 1967. After graduating from Cornell, he dedicated his teaching career to educating the next generation of agricultural leaders. He first taught at Saratoga BOCES and then went on to teach Agriculture and Technology courses at SUNY Delhi and Salem Central School. In 1993, Tom became the Assistant Principal of Salem Central High School and then worked as the Elementary School Principal from 1996 to 2002.

In addition to teaching, Tom found many ways to mentor the next generation. He led the Schuylerville Boy Scouts and coached various Little League teams. Tom was incredibly devoted to serving and bettering his community. He was the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Saratoga for over two decades. He also worked hard to preserve and promote the important history of Saratoga as the historian for the Town of Saratoga, the Villages of Victory, and Schuylerville.

In 2004, Tom became the Saratoga Town Supervisor and has served in this role ever since. In his role as Town Supervisor, Tom has prioritized open and honest communication between himself and the community to ensure the Saratoga Town government remains transparent and accountable. Thanks to Tom's strong leadership, Saratoga is a community with a deep connection to its important historical significance and deep understanding of its agricultural roots.

Tom's commitment to bettering Saratoga for all who call it home is inspirational. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Tom's leadership and thank him for his decades of service to the Town of Saratoga.